

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to utilize human resources and infrastructure to hone the engineers in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps Government are taking to hone the skills of engineers in the country more?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Unemployment of engineers may be due to various reasons including the demand pattern within and outside the country, which '*inter alia*' depends upon performance of economy, particularly the manufacturing sector etc. Non-availability of qualified faculty and lack of adequate infrastructural facilities are some other factors, which have impact on the quality of education imparted in the Engineering Institutes.

(c) and (d) In order to impart communications and IT skills to engineering graduates as well as to brush-up their knowledge of core subjects so as to make them more employable¹ in industry, it has been decided to start Finishing Schools, initially in seven National Institutes of Technology (NITs) at Jaipur, Kurukshetra, Durgapur, Warangal, Trichy, Calicut and Surathkai as well as at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee. The Finishing School courses will be organised during summer vacations for a period of 8 to 10 weeks. The Institutes would utilize their existing infrastructure for conducting these course. Admission to these courses would be restricted to persons who had completed their graduation engineering upto 2006 and were unemployed, so as to enhance their em payability.

Short supply of NCERT books

†2891. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the problems being faced by school children due to the lack of NCERT books;

(b) if so, the alternative measures being taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in publication of books by NCERT?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) To overcome problems of shortage of text books, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has increased the print orders from 2.75 crores (approx.) copies to 4.98 crores (approx.) copies for the current academic session-2007-08. NCERT also provides copyright to State Education Boards to reprint NCERT text books as per their requirement. Text books of NCERT are also available on website of NCERT-www.ncert.nic.in. NCERT is an academic research organization and the Council's main mandate is to bring out high quality textual material, which can serve as an exemplar. NCERT is not a commercial organization and its purpose is not to compete with the private publishers. Whenever the Council brings out new text books, quality concerns in certain cases force the NCERT to compromise with punctuality.

The NCERT is mandated to print and provide text books to the school affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). Some State Boards also prescribed NCERT Text books without any official information to the NCERT. It has also been observed that many schools not affiliated with CBSE also prescribed NCERT Text books. These reasons may create shortage of the NCERT text books in some parts of the country for a short span of time.

Child education system on Scandinavian Pattern

2892. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under active consideration of Government to introduce the child education system on the pattern of Scandinavian countries, *i.e.*, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how far this system shall improve the education of the children in the country; and

(c) whether this system is expected to be introduced in Uttar Pradesh in the first instance, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)* or "Education for All Programme" is the national flagship programme to provide quality elementary education to all children